

TRAVEL • CULTURE • STYLE • ADVENTURE • ROMANCE!

PASSPORT

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a black tuxedo jacket, a white dress shirt, and a black bow tie, stands against a dark background. He is holding a large, bright red surfboard vertically in front of him with his right hand. The surfboard has a white stripe running down its length and a black and white patterned area near the bottom. The overall mood is sophisticated and adventurous.

THE HOLIDAY ISSUE!

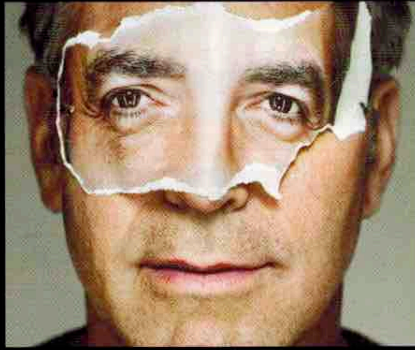
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TAHITI • VANCOUVER • GIFT GUIDE • AIRLINE TRENDS & MORE!

UP CLOSE

Located in the heart of Stockholm, Sweden **Fotografiska Museum** boasts an array of internationally renowned photography. With past exhibits including Annie Leibovitz and Nick Brandt, the museum continues to push the envelope with their big, bold, and exciting exhibitions. Their newest exhibit features Martin Schoeller's **Up Close** series. Schoeller, a famous portrait photographer, has captured the faces, essence, and personality of people like Barack Obama, Jay Z, George Clooney, and Michael Douglas among many more. Equally as impressive are his photographs of people he meets on the streets. He explained to the museum that his goal for this series was to discover, "What really differentiates Hilary Clinton from Denise Martin, who lives on the street? What is it that makes their respective expressions unique, and what do they have in common?" Now through February 7. www.fotografiska.eu



—Jordan McDowell

ern Cape featuring 30 folk, indie, and rock bands on three stages. Fans sip drinks while floating in the Breede River, flowing directly in front of the shows. Bring a swimsuit, raft, pool toy, or inflatable tube. This year's festival runs from January 28-31. The chill vibe is perfect for those who like to kick back and relax while listening to great jams. www.upthecreek.co.za

ASIA

INDIA GUJARAT REGION

Every January 14, the skies of Gujarat, a state in Western India, are filled with thousands of kites flown during the annual **Uttarayan** celebration. The festivities are meant to commemorate the days when, according to the Hindu calendar, winter begins turning to summer. A major spectacle that essentially shuts down the state, the celebration brings family members and friends together as they fly their kites and compete against neighbors by trying to cut other kites' strings and bring them down. The city of Ahmedabad has hosted the International Kite Festival, as part of the Uttarayan celebration, since 1989. This festival attracts master kite makers and flyers from all over the world to show off their unique creations and skills. www.gujaratourism.com

JAPAN TOKYO

Dezome-Shiki is an annual New Year's festival to be held at Tokyo Big Sight Convention Centre on January 6. It is free and open to the pub-

lic. The festival, also known as the New Year Firemen's Parade, is an interesting mixture of circus performances and public safety awareness campaigns. The Tokyo Fire Department hosts the event to pray for a safe year and to inform the public of the dangers of fire. During the festivities, firemen in Edo-period costumes go on parade with over 100 fire engines and helicopters, later performing circus stunts on top of bamboo ladders. **Dezome-Shiki** first began with firemen praying to the shrine of Ueno Toshogu for a safe new year. Now the prayers are extended to dazzling public view, giving you the opportunity to witness a fascinating aspect of Japanese culture. www.jnto.go.jp

THAILAND CHIANG MAI

Every year in November, people gather to Chaing Mai, and every year a sight unfolds that leaves attendees breathless. The **Lantern Festival** is held from November 22-25 with ceremonies composed of ritualistic chants from monks. The spiritual and ancient festival is supposed to bestow a sense a cleansing and new beginning with the release of your personal lantern. Along with the releasing of lanterns people have makeshift boats made from banana leaves that they let loose into the rivers surrounding the festival. All supplies and lanterns are available upon arrival. The beauty of this festival fills everyone with a sense of awe as they watch the night sky being illuminated with thousands of orange lanterns. www.festivalasia.net

AUSTRALIA/OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA HOBART

Dare to have your taste buds tickled at this winter at Hobart's annual **Taste of Tasmania**, an eight-day long culinary feast delivering over 100,000 visitors a taste of Tasmania's luscious local fare. More than 70 food and beverage stalls line the scenic waterfront from December 28-January 3, offering guests a selection of freshly caught seafood, bold Bruny Island cheeses, lavish organic desserts, farm-fresh jams, home-brewed beers, and other gastronomic pleasures. Festivalgoers indulge in the diverse foodscape while enjoying musical performances, street theatre, cooking demonstrations, art installations, and aerial dancers, among other entertainment. On New Year's Eve, don't miss the festival's annual party. Dance to bands and DJs, sip locally made Champagne, and watch the colorful fireworks explode over the water. www.thetasteoftasmania.com.au

NEW ZEALAND GISBORNE

Ring in the New Year alongside a spirited crowd of 30,000 international visitors and natives, while enjoying some of the most eclectic and innovative musical acts the world has to offer at the **Rhythm and Vines Music Festival**, a boisterous three-day celebration held at Gisborne's Waiohika Estate. From December 29-31, visitors can camp out along its scenic beaches or within the lush vineyard and select from over 100 live performances. Featured artists include Angus & Julia Stone, Concord Dawn, and Cut Snake among other celebrated names and up-and-comers. www.rhythmandvines.co.nz

SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL RIO DE JANEIRO

Reveillon may be the world's biggest beach bash, drawing a record 2.3 million people to the sands of Rio's Copacabana Beach to celebrate the New Year. Revelers don white to honor Lemanjá, the goddess of the sea. Watch one of the biggest fireworks displays in the world from one of the high-rise parties that line the beach, or grab a front row seat out on the shore. Just remember to keep up with then night's time-honored ritual: Follow the crowds into the ocean and jump over seven waves. With each one, make a wish. Just don't look back. www.agaxturviagens.com.br

CHILE SANTIAGO

Get your dancing shoes on from December 18-20,